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Question Time: Women in the draft?

Should male-only Selective Service continue?

By Rob Burgess
Tribune night editor

[**Editor's note:** To participate in future queries, keep an eye on our Twitter and Facebook accounts.]

From 1940 to 1973, the Selective Training and Service Act instituted the nation's first peacetime draft, requiring men only to register. Since the military has converted to an all-volunteer force, males are still required to register, yet women are not. Given recent changes, though, that may not always be the case.

"Defense Secretary Ash Carter announced on Dec. 3, 2015, the Department of Defense [would] lift all gender-based restrictions on military service starting January," states the Selective Service System website. "As of January, there has been no decision to require females to register with Selective Service, or be subject to a future military draft. Selective Service continues to register only men, ages 18 through 25."

So, we wanted to know: “Should women also be required to register for the draft? Why or why not?”

Your answers

“I thought Nixon abolished the draft.” — **Sean Webb**

“Yes, because if women want to be treated ‘fairly’ like men then we should be put up to the same challenges.” — **Katie Burris**

“I don't think you should be required to do anything that doesn't suit you.”
— **Draven Ray Long**

Our answers

“Yes, and they should have to take the garbage out from time to time. What good is equality if I'm the one who always takes the garbage out, Lori?” —
Steve Mullen

“Yep. Should have before anyway. What gender inequalities are still legally on the books?” — **Pedro Velazco**

“It's tough because I was terrified of being drafted when I was younger, but I understand the fairness argument. What about having men and women, but opening up some sort of civil service options?” — **Rob Burgess**

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